

ARRA Funding for Mass Transit, Aviation, Railroads

Mass Transit: Public transportation systems in Indiana will be eligible for over \$80 million in federal stimulus funds. The funds may be used for capital projects, which include purchasing transit vehicles, building or renovating transit facilities, and purchasing communication equipment. Over \$60 million of these funds are for the urban systems and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, and will be administered directly by the Federal Transit Administration. Approximately, \$20 million is available for the rural transit program which includes \$3 million for intercity bus projects. The intercity funds will be awarded by a competitive selection process to intercity carriers and the rural transit funds will be allocated by formula to Indiana's 45 rural transit systems. Any unused funds will be reallocated within the rural transit systems as necessary to fully utilize the state's apportionment. These funds will be administered by INDOT's Transit Office.

Aviation: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will distribute Indiana's portion of the stimulus funds through its Chicago office. INDOT's Aviation Office worked with Indiana's 67 airports eligible for federal funds and compiled over \$100 million of potential airport projects in addition to any requests submitted directly by Indianapolis International Airport. The list of projects was submitted to FAA during December 2008. The FAA has sole responsibility to determine which airport projects receive stimulus funds and administer the grants. Awards are made direct by FAA to the airports.

Railroads: Nationwide there will be \$8 billion available for high speed rail corridors and intercity passenger rail service. By April 18th, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation is to submit to Congress a strategic plan for using the stimulus funds. By June 17th, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation is to issue interim guidance to potential applicants. Three high speed rail corridors (Chicago to Detroit; Chicago to Cleveland; and Chicago to Cincinnati through Indianapolis) go through Indiana. Indiana is a member of the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative, which consists of Indiana plus eight other states (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin) who are working to develop a high speed passenger rail system in the Midwest. Once the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) guidance is issued, INDOT will pursue stimulus funds for eligible projects. The FRA will select the projects to be funded.

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Media Response Statement

Background

President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) into law on February 17, 2009.

The law provides \$658 million for highway projects in Indiana. The Recovery Act also states that \$440 million of that money will be allocated to INDOT for state projects. About \$20 million will be available for Transportation Enhancement projects, and the remaining \$198 million be divided among Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and cities, counties, towns and rural area local government organizations.

Governor Mitch Daniels says Indiana will spend all of that money, and he has said speed is of the essence in getting projects approved that will be spread across the state, provide jobs for Hoosiers, and leave a lasting investment, such as a road or a bridge.

Media Response Statement (For use with reporters)

INDOT has identified the key dates and allocations for federal ARRA funding. The agency is working with local public agencies to identify projects that may qualify for ARRA dollars. The goal is to quickly provide jobs for Hoosiers across the state.

We have already advertised more than \$80 million in projects in 36 different counties, and we will award construction contracts for those projects as soon as possible.

These projects represent a variety of work from road construction to bridge repairs and painting to traffic safety improvements.

INDOT is developing future letting lists, and will add state and local projects to those lists as they are approved.

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